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CINCINNATI, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18.

Our National Charities—The Tract
Society.

The principal business of our great
public charities—Bible Societies, Tract
Societies, and the like—is to provide for a
parcel of lazy reverends, who live high
and transact business in a truly loose
and clerical manner. In the collection
and in the disbursement of the means to
carry on their operations, the processes
are equally wasteful and undignified.
Offensively-begging agents usurp the pul-
pits of the obsequious local clergy, and
pocket half the proceeds of their impor-
tunity. The name of God is prostituted
to the most common and unclean of pur-
poses. The child who, under the influ-
ence of the pious but credulous Sunday
school teacher, grudgingly pays over its
little pence to snatch some poor heathen
infant from its idolatrous course, and
dreadful future, would be surprised if
told, by some malicious informer, that
possibly one cent of the aggregate dime
might find its way into the designated
channel. Somewhere from ten to twenty-
five per cent of the sums collected by
these concerns—for there accrue, not
merely private profits, but private steal-
ings to these suttlers in the Lord's camp,
by which results are varied—are expen-
ded according to the programme: the
rest is consumed in the subsistence de-
partment. These things are matters of
documentary testimony—kept out of the
sight of the "world," as much as possi-
ble, of course. A little was done, a year
ago, by the New York Independent, to-
ward exhibiting this holy iniquity; but
not much. There was danger that by
too great truth-telling, the salt of the
earth might be scandalized, and lose its
savor in the esteem of the "loked. Then,
what would become of lost mankind?

Our great national charitable societies
have been holding their annual meetings
in New York—vulgarily ANNIVERSARIES:
occasions when, it is said, more than one
of the local institutions of that city are
largely patronized. The proceedings are,
as usual—speeches, resolutions—repeti-
tion of the annual twaddle and misrep-
resentations: great promises, and great ex-
aggeration in describing performances.
The event of the week, however, is the
refusal of the Tract Society to publish
anti-slavery matter. The shepherds of
that concern desire no sub-division of
their flock by territorial boundaries; their
noble ambition being to shear the whole.
"Every leaven withereth; every tith,
yields pound and odd shilling"—the
more wethers, the more tith; the more
tiths, the more money; the more money,
the more creature comforts, is a rule
which, to know, needs neither seminary
nor word of inspiration.

Slavery is a social, not a religious mat-
ter. As a religious corporation—its pro-
posed end being to teach religion, not to
revolutionize society—it has nothing to
do with the domestic relations. If the
Tract Society had acted upon this princi-
ple its motive would have been as un-
available as its determination was judicious.
Probably through a cowardly motive, it
has done right—no thanks, nor even
credit to it for so doing. The measure
was not carried without difficulty as well
as misbehavior by the litigants. "The
weapons," says the Times, "were carnal,
and the temper devilish." Reverend gen-
tlemen behaved like bullies and talked
like blackguards. Men were howled
down, and shuffled down, and pulled down;
the speakers in opposition were inter-
rupted, and hustled, and the gag was put on
and the measure carried amid general ill-tem-
per and misbehavior.

Intervention.

In respect to the doctrine of INTERVEN-
TION—the power of Congress over slavery
—the two party extremes of the Union,
have taken their stand upon precisely the
same principle. Intervention is the lead-
ing doctrine of the Republican platform;
intervention is that which Messrs. Davis
and company demand as the first and last
thing, at the hands of the national legis-
lature. It is true that the two sides seek
to establish the right of intervention for
opposite purposes: but what difference
does that make in respect to the principle?
Whatever may be said about moral duty,
the anti-slavery man of the North cannot
prove that it is in the power of Congress
"to prohibit in the Territories those twin
relies of barbarism polygamy and slavery,"
without, at the same time, proving that it
is in the power of the same body to pro-
tect the "twin relies" aforesaid. The
power is a question of fact, the duty a
matter of opinion; and the one being

admitted, the other rests entirely in the
discretion of those in whom the power is
reposed. Let the principle be stated in
its breadth, and the fanatics of both sec-
tions can stand comfortably and snugly
upon the same platform.

They should do so; and then so much
would be settled—that is to say, if the
settlement of questions is desirable, in
the field of politics. The issue could
then be made up on the point of policy:
Is it for the interest of the people of the
country, as a whole, that slavery be pro-
tected, or that it be prohibited?—the idea
of letting it alone does not seem to occur
to anybody.

But can we afford to let it alone? Can
the people of the United States bear to
part with slavery as a subject of political
agitation? We suppose not. To lose it
would be to encounter one of two dangers:
we should either fall into a state of utter
stagnation, or pick up some other cause of
dispute, out of which practical mischief
might occur. Being purely a fancy ques-
tion, and at the same time a taking one,
it is the best safety-valve in the world. It
overshadows a thousand ridiculous theo-
ries of political economy, which other-
wise might be the occasion of a variety
of foolish legislation; and, by penning up
all the peccant vapors in one noisy tor-
nado, does much to keep a portion of the
political atmosphere free of smoke and
disturbance.

European Falsehoods.

Strongly as party spirit prevails at times
in the United States, and provocative as
it is of falsehood, we have little idea of
the extent to which it operates, to sup-
press the truth and give currency to its
opposite, in several countries of Europe—
in France especially and in Italy. We,
in America, are novices in the art of ly-
ing—weakness itself in comparison with
the preternatural activity and strength of
the inventive powers among a people who
see only through the medium of their
passions. We do not speak of exaggera-
tion—of that we have enough here—but
of creation: the manufacture out of mere
imaginary material, of monstrous lies of
circumstance—of the use of falsehood as
a weapon by each party to render the
other odious to itself and to the world.
The effects of this is being seen in ex-
tracts from European papers—harrowing
details of wrong, crime, and oppression,
with names, places, and all the surround-
ings necessary to give the case an appear-
ance of credibility—now being copied by
the American press. Let us not believe
these things. To suppose that half the
stories that are told of Austrian cruelty
in Italy are true would be to make that
government not only the most wicked but
the most foolish upon the face of the
globe. The offense of Austria in Italy
is extreme taxation; not personal cruelty.
Within her military lines, she undoubtedly
enforces martial law; but that her ad-
ministration, whether civil or military, is
daily in the commission of crime through
wantonness, or mere jealousy is not prob-
able.

The Commercial promises its readers
an article upon the "probable platform
and candidacy of the Opposition." The
readers of its emission upon "The Position
of Parties," will probably await the next
revelation with mingled dread and curi-
osity. Since Tom Crib's Congress at-
tempted to settle the continent, there has
been no such display of combined potency
and perspicacity. If the author don't
own a scholarship in Circumlocution Col-
lege, there is no truth in signs.

It is not a bad idea, that of the Com-
mercial—though by no means original—
that the editor of the Enquirer ought to
be ashamed, knowing him so well, of
having voted for Tim Day. As the men-
tal apparatus of the corner of Third and
Sycamore works rather slowly, it will
probably take it several years more to
arrive at the pitch of enlightenment upon
that point, reached by him of the En-
quirer.

The Enquirer accuses the Commercial
of being copied from, or made up of,
or imitated upon, the New York Evening
Post. Well, what of that? Can't a fel-
low borrow when he is out himself, with-
out having it flung in his face? When
an individual scratches his head, and
ideas won't come, nor facts either, what
is he to do? Answer that.

NEW BOOKS.

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Townsend & Co. Cincinnati: Robert Clark & Co.
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of the works of the great American Novelist, is the
one which, perhaps, at the time of its appearance,
attracted more attention than any other—"The Spy."
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an interest in the reader, intense from beginning to
end, it has few if any superiors in our own, or any
other literature. Like those which preceded it, it is
faultless in typography and paper, and is illustrated
with two beautiful pictures by Dary.

NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPEDIA—A popular Dic-
tionary of General Knowledge. Edited by Ripley
E. Dana, and published by the Americana, New
York, and Follett, Foster & Co., Columbus, Ohio.
Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this paragon of modern Cy-
clopædias have been received by Mr. J. B. Cunningham,
the most copious and elaborate Cyclopædia in the
English language, and as its chronological, biog-
raphical and historical articles are brought down to
no later than 1892, it is especially valuable for the
library and for reference. Mr. Cunningham has now
ready to deliver three volumes to all who have let
subscriptions to it.

NEW BRITISH QUARTERLY.—A new Quarterly,
entitled "BRITISH REVIEW," has been started in
London, the first number bearing date March last—
a specimen copy of which may be seen at the book-
store of Robert Clark & Co. Its articles are well
written, and its present number, upon "The
twin relies," is especially valuable. It is a
outspoken way, although, in its religious and party
aspects it inclines to orthodoxy and conservatism. Its
writers are at present unknown.

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We have on hand, at our Warehouse, No. 166 Vine
street, a good assortment of our Patent Iceberg Re-
frigerators, with which we will be happy to supply
our trade.

Cincinnati, Monday, May 14, 1890. my16
NOTICE is hereby given that the subscrib-
ers have been appointed and qualified as Execu-
tors of the estate of W. M. BENNET, late of Ham-
ilton County, deceased. JANE BENNET, my17-2w
May 18, 1890.

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THE rooms of this Association, No. 22 WEST
THIRD STREET, CINCINNATI, are now open for
the use of the Y. M. E. ASSOCIATION, my17-2w
May 18, 1890.

AT A MEETING OF THE DI-

RECTORS of the Cincinnati Gas Light Company,
held this evening, May 17, 1890, it was unanimously
resolved, in place of the late James South-
east, Esq., my18
C. T. TALBOT, Sec. Secretary.

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